

VPSCG – Regional Choice Initiative
Principals Meeting Background
April 6, 2011

Prepared by: Marianne LeDonne, RCI Director

RCI – Open Seats Program

- **One hundred-five students** are currently participating in the Open Seats Program. Please refer to the handout for individual district participation information. We currently have **seven** students transferring for a full-day program.
- I forwarded to you the response the PIMS Helpdesk gave me when I asked how students participating in Open Seats should be reported. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. The administrator in charge of Child Accounting will be calling me to discuss our programs.
- The 2011-2012 Course Selection Guides for Central Valley, New Brighton, Riverside, Freedom, South Side, and Western Beaver have been added to the RCI webpage.
- What will your district be offering; what are your needs? How can we share our resources? We have created a document on Google docs to make transparent each district's needs and offerings. We are asking your counselors to complete the document for each student request to be filled outside of your district. This document will help the RCI office know when the Lottery Policy is needed. Please refer to the Lottery Policy attached.
- Districts have been notified of the partnership we are pursuing with the BenSalem School District. It was originally planned for the district to provide available seats to our interested students in Japanese I and III, however, BenSalem has now included seats in Level II as well! There are 33-seats available in Japanese I. Tentative plans are for this course to be offered for 40-minutes at the beginning of the day. Please let the RCI office know as soon as students request a seat.

RCI- Dual Enrollment Program

- Please review with your staff the students who are taking a Dual Enrollment course. As stated last year and earlier this year, students may only be counted once per year. It was stated that if a school offers two in-house courses, each for one semester, that program would be permitted to remain and those students would be funded because arrangements had already been made before it was discovered a number of students had taken multiple

courses. It was announced that this continued practice would not be funded through the RCI program. We strongly urge all schools to have as many Low Performing/Disengaged students as possible take a single Dual Enrollment course. Please make sure your plans for utilizing RCI Dual Enrollment funds are discussed with the RCI office prior to next year to ensure all parties have the same vision. In anticipation of next year, the RCI Dual Enrollment allocation looks to be approximately \$40,000 per district.

RCI – Cyber/Technology Program

- The RCI office shared with your superintendent a district specific list of students working online, their grades-to-date, and the course vendor.
- All districts have a complete online curriculum, with electives, for students in grades 7-12 from which to choose. Please feel free to call the RCI office to discuss cost-effective scenarios for your district.
- Learning to be an online teacher can happen as your teachers sit in the comfort of their own homes and complete the training. Let us know who may be interested in learning how to be an online teacher. A training is scheduled for the beginning of May with a few seats still available. Please call our office to secure a seat for your teachers.

RCI - Choice Academies/Academy for Success Program

- Is your district interested in hosting an Academy for Success next year? Please call the RCI office to make arrangements to qualify your school/grade under this program.

Miscellaneous

- Celebration Dinners for students participating in the RCI 2010-2011 Open Seats and/or Dual Enrollment Programs are planned for the following districts:

Blackhawk	April 26	New Brighton
Hopewell	April 27	
Freedom	May 4	
Aliquippa	May 5	
Big Beaver Falls	May 11	
Western Beaver	May 12	

Riverside May 17

Ellwood City May 19

Rochester May 25

- Brochures for Teachers Academy Cohort 4 will be delivered to your offices this week and next. This year we have included Fine Arts teachers in the invitation. Please call the RCI office if you need more brochures. The registration deadline is May 27, 2010.
- Thank you for distributing the BC STEM Advocacy flyer for us.

Accounting for Open Seat Students in PIMS

How to report students taking courses from neighboring districts

How to report students taking courses through the Regional Choice Initiative Open Seats Program.

Response:

For the PIMS reporting, the student's course enrollment should be reported by the educating district.

if a student's Home District is District A and the student is taking a few courses from District B, then both districts will be reporting this student for their respective courses. District B will need to add this student to their Student template and then also report this student in the Student Course Enrollment template.

In the Student template, the District Code (field 1) and Location Code (field 2) should be for the educating district. The District Code of Residence (field 117), Location Code of Residence (field 165) and Funding District (field 189) should all be for the student's Home district.

Course Needs			Courses/Seats Offered		
District	Please list what subjects are needed	Number of students who need course	District	Courses your district is offering as Open Seats	Number of Seats
Big Beaver Falls	French II	10	Bensalem	Japanese	33
	Mandarin Chinese	10			
	Latin I	22			
New Brighton	ROTC @ Ambridge	9	AW Beattie	Mandarin Chinese	12 Seats x 4
	ROTC @ Beaver	3			
	German 1	4			
	German 2	6	Freedom	Mandarin Chinese II	
	German 4	1			
	Italian I @ Ambridge	1			
	Latin II @ Blackhawk	1		Multimedia I	
	Communications @ BBeaver Falls	1			
	Diversity @ BBeaver Falls	3			
Beaver	Chinese			Web Design	
	Japanese				
	Advanced Math				
Freedom	ROTC @ Ambridge	3		Computer Program Studio	
	Latin I	1			
	AP German	3 + ?			
Rochester				Anatomy & Physiology	
Western Beaver					
Ambridge					